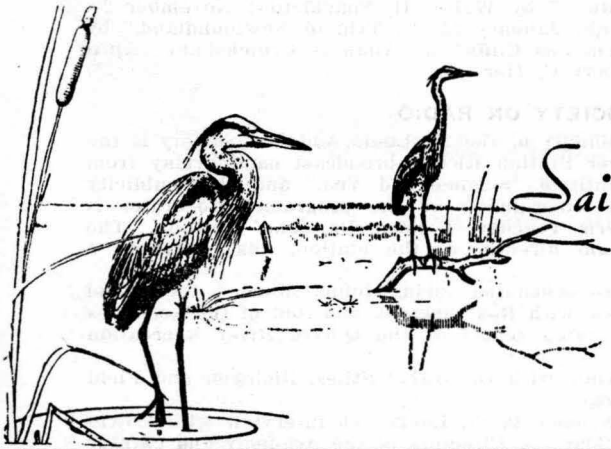




Saint Louis Audubon Bulletin

Vol. 21, No. 5

June-July, 1953

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The fiscal year May 1, 1952 to April 30, 1953, has proven to be one of the more successful in the history of the St. Louis Audubon Society. The officers' reports submitted at the Annual Meeting summarize the varied and interesting events sponsored by the Society, as well as reflecting an improved financial condition, a sound basis upon which an even wider program may be built.

There are certain key personnel in any organization upon whom progress and even survival are dependent. The St. Louis Audubon Society has been extremely fortunate in having active participation and leadership from the kind of officers who guarantee a progressive, live, organization.

The burden of working out the details has befallen Mrs. J. Marshall Magner and it was with untiring effort and keen ability that these problems were met. One of the more important phases of organizational work is publicity. Publicity as seen in the eyes of our group has a two-fold mission. First, and probably more important, is publicity of ideals, and the education of the local population as to the meaning of wildlife conservation and to the appreciation of the out-of-doors. Our publicity has been under the capable direction of the energetic and enthusiastic Mrs. E. Oscar Thallinger. A recitation of the numerous activities that made up this program would require far more space than is available. Ranging from coveted spots on Television Station KSD to articles in neighborhood weeklies, it is apparent that Mrs. Thallinger has left no stone unturned in her efforts to carry out her appointed duties. The two daily newspapers have carried news of the Society, nearly all local radio stations have had spot announcements of our events. The latest result of these efforts is a regular weekly program on radio station K.F.U.O. (See Page 2 for time of broadcast.) Mrs. Thallinger has also succeeded in gaining publicity for our internal affairs such as Picnics, Screen Tours, Meetings, etc. It appears that an excellent balance has been maintained, wherein nature appreciation education of the general public has remained the primary object but local events have never been neglected.

The weather and other adverse conditions tended to reduce the potential attendance on the scheduled field trips. From a bird watcher's view however, they were very successful. It has been suggested that schedule changes might increase participation and this is being considered. A complete listing will be published as soon as details are worked out.

The Screen Tour program of five lectures was successful. Use of the small auditorium at the Third Baptist Church did not allow an all out campaign to increase attendance. We will have available the larger auditorium for the coming year and each member should do his utmost to further this important phase of our activities. Secretary, Mrs. Arthur Hughes, is to be congratulated for the smooth organization of the committees handling these programs.

1953-54 SCHEDULE OF EVENING SCREEN TOURS

October 19, "Oddities in Nature," by Walter H. Shackleton; November 20, "Panama Venture," by Lorus J. Milne; January 26, "A Trip to Newfoundland," by Dick Bird; February 26, "Santa Lucia Sea Cliffs," by Allan D. Cruickshank; April 23, "Once Upon an Island," by Robert C. Hermes.

THE SOCIETY ON RADIO

Perhaps the finest bit of publicity of the St. Louis Audubon Society is the weekly series of radio programs over Station KFUP, broadcast each Friday from 3:45 to 4:00 p.m. The series is entitled "Science and You," and club publicity chairman, Mrs. E. O. Thallinger is co-ordinator of the program. Moderator is Science Education Professor of Harris Teachers College, Dr. John Whitney. The Reverend E. J. Knoerschild, program director of the station, has expressed a desire that it have a long run.

The following programs were scheduled during June: June 5, "A School in the Woods," based on an interview with Rex Conyers, and told of the activities of the University City sixth grade camp school at the Quivre River Recreation Area.

June 12, "Weeds," an interview with Dr. Isabel Stiles, Biologist and Field Botanist of the Harris Teachers College.

June 19, "The Academy of Science in St. Louis," an interview with Edwin P. Meiners, M.D., a member of the Board of Directors of the Academy and curator of insects.

June 26, "The St. Louis Audubon Society," an interview with Mr. Oliver M. Evans, on the overall program of the Society and its value in working with the city's youth.

During July the subject will be the "Great Outdoors." Among the speakers will be Dr. Edgar Anderson, Director of the Missouri Botanical Society and on the staff of Washington University, J. Marshall Magner, Staff Entomologist of the Monsanto Chemical Company, and Mrs. Irma Rombauer.

Medical Science will be the theme of the August series. The Speakers have not yet been arranged.

Please make a note of the time of these programs. Listen, Tell Your Friends, Let the Station know of your reactions.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the Audio-Visual Education Building of the St. Louis Public Schools. Mr. Waldemar Palm was in charge of the program and showed a movie "Wilderness Trail Trips in Glacier National Park." As he and Mrs. Palm participated in one of these trips his comments were from a first hand knowledge and proved most interesting. Miss Elizabeth Golterman of the school system explained the functions of the Audio-Visual Division and gave examples of some of the work being done by this organization.

Included in the business of the evening was the election of officers for the year 1953-54. Mr. Oliver M. Evans was re-elected President and the following other officers were selected:

Vice-Presidents:

Earl Hath
J. Marshall Magner
Waldemar Palm

Secretary:

Mrs. Arthur L. Hughes

Treasurer:

Mrs. Viola Holliday

Editor:

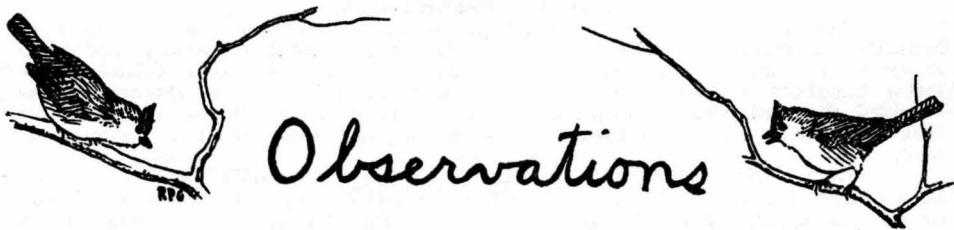
Rex Conyers

Board of Directors:

Wm. Glasgow Bowling
Dr. Hampton L. Carson
E. G. Cherbonnier
William Conway

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—(Cont.)

Harry G. Glessow
Elizabeth Golterman
Leonard Hall
W. R. Hecht
G. Alex Hope
Mrs. Archie Lee
Joel Massie
Myron Northrup
Mrs. Irma S. Rombauer
Luther Ely Smith, Jr.
John C. Talbot
Dr. Robert J. Terry
Mrs. E. O. Thallinger
Dr. Mildred Trotter
Mrs. Truman Post Young



JAMES EARL COMFORT

March gave St. Louis Area birders three extreme rarities when Dr. and Mrs. Elisha Atkins found a Barrow's goldeneye duck at the Busch Refuge on the 8th, Dick Anderson had a sandhill crane on the 20th, and Stoner Haven saw an American magpie on the 21st. There were others who luckily shared in the listing of the three species. The duck and magpie are first modern records in our region.

On April 12th a partial check of the many bluebird boxes put up at the Busch Sanctuary by Rex Conyers' Field and Forest Conservation Club showed a very high per cent occupation. Some already had young. The enthusiastic boys will add bluebird boxes and put up chickadee, wren, and prothonotary warbler boxes. The warbler boxes will be checked with extreme interest. Boxes placed near water usually attract these warblers. Fortunately, the refuge has several lakes suitable for the experiment. This warbler prefers nesting sites in sheltered sections with plenty of cover. Four of the boys who did the bluebird work are graduates now in college. But there seems to always be a new Conyers' class to carry on and to start new worthy projects. We know of no teacher who is held in as great esteem by his students as is Rex. Such devotion stems from a mutual interest shared by this teacher and his students.

Both Franklins and Bonaparte's gulls were at the Alton Dam in early April and a white-winged scoter duck was a holdover there from March. There were 24 species of ducks in March. No entire year has given us as many ducks as this one month. In mid April sapsuckers, ruby-crowned kinglets and hermit thrushes were exceptionally common.

On April 12th Julian Neill found 8 common loons at Grand Marais State Park, East St. Louis. For once this uncommon loon proved to be common.

On April 18th Jim and Earl Comfort refused to let snow and ice covered trees and fields prevent them from birding at the Busch Memorial Area as planned. They were rewarded by locating 3 rare Hudsonian godwits.

On May 17th Beulah Bedell led an enthusiastic bird group on a St. Louis Audubon Society sponsored field trip at Creve Coeur Lake. Warblers, which were the main attraction, co-operated as the list of 29 species in the 4 hours proves. Best warblers were sycamore and Connecticut. Other rare species seen not of this family were yellow-bellied flycatcher and Philadelphia Vireo.

The 4 Forest Park bird walks sponsored by the society were disappointing to those attending because the late Spring migration kept the lists low.

The May 3rd annual Spring census was well attended. Best birds were Sprague's pipits and Florida gallinule. The total list was 179. High individual lists were 146 by Kurt Wesseling and 145 each by Jack Van Benthuyzen and Mark Tuttle.

Rex Conyer's Lawrence's warbler early in May was an extraordinary find.

Three ruddy turnstones in breeding plumage were seen at Horseshoe Lake on May 16th by Julian Neill and Earl Comfort.

David Jones' 10 Cape May warblers at one time was an amazing number for this rare bird. Other rare warblers of May were Connecticut, pine and sycamore. Thirty-five species had been reported by mid-May.

DICK GROSSENHEIDER

The St. Louis Audubon Society has in its membership many who have an intimate knowledge of wildlife, however, our most celebrated member, and justifiably so, is Dick Grossenheider. Dick, since his magnificent contribution to the latest handbook in the Peterson series, "A Field Guide to the Mammals," has received the nation-wide recognition we in St. Louis have always considered his just due. He is considered by all critics as the nation's top artist in the mammal field.

Rather than resting on his laurels he has, if possible, been even more active in the promotion of nature appreciation activities in general and the Audubon Society in particular since the publication of this handbook. A review of his activities during Christmas week this past year will give an inkling to the schedule he maintains.

On December 31 he was interviewed on Radio Station KFUD by the Reverend E. J. Knoerschild. At that time he discussed the pleasures of field trips, telling of the one held by the American Nature Study Society and allied organizations during the A.A.A.S. convention. The St. Louis Audubon Society was one of the co-hosts on this trip. The assistance received from good field manuals was emphasized.

On December 24th Dick appeared on Station WEW and told of his experiences in painting from live models as well as the history of his career. Then on the 24th of the month he was guest on Television Station KSD where he showed many water colors painted in the South Pacific as well as paintings of more familiar North American wildlife. He discussed techniques employed in securing live models and some of the difficulties in providing them with substance until the paintings could be completed and the model released.

It has been a long road from an assistant at the St. Louis Zoo to America's foremost mammal artist and we in St. Louis are extremely proud to share in this success.

Upon the appearance of "A Field Guide to the Mammals" an autograph party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. Alex Hope and at that time many of us secured a copy of the book. Any member who does not as yet own a copy is denying himself of a reference work that will prove invaluable if he is interested in the identification of our mammals. Our service department can supply you with this fine manual.

DESLOGE PICNIC

The picnic at the Desloge Estate "Vouziere" was the most successful venture of this type ever experienced by the Society. Well over 100 were in attendance. Mr. Joseph Desloge proved an excellent host and in spite of the heat all enjoyed a very fine day. Planning and supervision of the picnic was under the capable direction of Vice-President Earl Hath.

Due to the absence from town of Editor Rex Conyers, this issue has been edited by Jim Comfort. Editor Conyers has expressed the desire to have an assistant editor for each issue during the coming year.

ST. LOUIS AUDUBON BULLETIN VOL. 21, NO. 5 June-July, 1953

OFFICERS

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Vice-Pres. Earl L. Hath

J. Marshall Magner
Waldemar Palm

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Treas. Mrs. Viola M. Holliday
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Editor Rex Conyers

Acting Editor..... James F. Comfort

GOOD NEWS!

The Daily Field Check List For the
St. Louis Area is Being Revised.
Copies will be available this Fall.
Order from our Service Department.